

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 24 and 39, amend claims 1 to 15, 18, 20 to 23, 25 to 33, 35, 36 and add new claims 40 to 54 as follows:

1. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine, ~~wherein the~~ for processing sheets each ~~comprise comprising~~ respectively a plurality of copies, said sheet-processing machine comprising a plurality of modules through which said sheets are passed through ~~transported~~ one after the other along a sheet conveying direction ~~by the sheets to be processed~~, having said plurality of modules including a sheet feeder module for feeding the sheets ~~to a~~ and one or more downstream sheet-processing modules, ~~wherein the sheet input interface and the sheet output interface of at least one of the sheet processing modules can optionally be coupled to sheet output interfaces and sheet input interfaces, respectively, of at least two other modules, and wherein the said sheet-processing modules optionally comprise one or more of the~~ are selected from the following group of sheet-processing modules:

- an inspection module for monitoring the print quality of the sheets;
- a marking module for marking a sheet as usable or unusable depending on a monitoring result of the inspection module; and

- a numbering module for applying serial numbering to the sheets,

and wherein the sheet feeder module and said sheet-processing modules are provided designed in such a way that at least the following machine assemblies can optionally be formed:

- a first machine assembly comprising a ~~the~~ sheet feeder module and a ~~the~~ numbering module directly connected in succession with respect to the sheet conveying direction;

- a second machine assembly comprising ~~a~~the sheet feeder module, ~~an~~the inspection module and ~~a~~the numbering module directly connected in succession with respect to the sheet conveying direction; and

- a third machine assembly comprising ~~a~~the sheet feeder module, ~~an~~the inspection module and ~~a~~the marking module directly connected in succession with respect to the sheet conveying direction.

2. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of the interfaces have respective transport cylinders for receiving a sheet from an output transport cylinder of an upstream module or for passing a sheet to an input transport cylinder of a downstream module~~transfer of a sheet from an upstream module to a downstream module is effected by means of an output transport cylinder located at a sheet output interface of the upstream module which transfers the sheet to an input transport cylinder located at a sheet input interface of the downstream module.

3. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 2~~1~~, wherein ~~a sheet transport path within a module, which has a sheet input interface that can be connected to a number of sheet output interfaces, is formed by~~said inspection module comprises an even number of transport cylinders for transporting the sheets from a sheet input interface to a sheet output interface of the inspection module.

4. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 2, wherein the output transport cylinder of ~~an~~the upstream module and the input transport cylinder of ~~a~~the downstream module have opposite directions of rotation.
5. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the sheet feeder module, inspection module, marking module and numbering modules each have their own respective side frame panels.
6. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim ~~25~~, wherein the sheet feeder module, inspection module, marking module and numbering modules each have ~~their own~~ respective side frame panels and wherein the at least one transport cylinders are which is fixed to the side frame panels.
7. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 5, wherein the side frame panels of the sheet feeder module, inspection module, marking module and numbering individual modules are fixed to one another.
8. (currently amended) ~~(previously presented)~~ Sheet-processing machine according to claim 5, wherein the marking module and the numbering modules have a cut-out ~~in which for~~ engagement and support of the side frame panels of the modules can engage and be supported of the sheet feeder module or of the inspection module.

9. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein columns ~~can be~~ provided for supporting the sheet feeder module and the inspection modules.
10. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein, in said second machine assembly, the numbering module is arranged behind the inspection module ~~in~~ with respect to the sheet conveying direction of the sheets, so as to apply the numbering only to those sheets which have passed the quality check carried out by the inspection module.
11. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein a marking device for applying a marking to the sheets is arranged in the numbering module.
12. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 11, wherein ~~a~~ the marking device is arranged upstream of a numbering unit of the numbering module.
13. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 11, wherein ~~a~~ the marking device is arranged on a counter-pressure cylinder of ~~a~~ the numbering unit/module.
14. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein a marking device for applying a marking to the sheets marks an edge region of a column and/or row in which ~~the~~ a fault detected by said inspection module is located.

15. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein a marking device for applying a marking to the sheets marks a column and outputs ~~the~~ a row number in which ~~the faulty printing a fault detected by said inspection module~~ is located.
16. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the marking module comprises a marking device for applying a marking to sheets.
17. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 11, wherein the marking device is arranged to apply the marking as unusable selectively to individual copies or in relation to individual copies on a sheet.
18. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 11, wherein the marking device comprises a plurality of print heads which are distributed uniformly ~~in the~~ direction transversely to the transport sheet conveying direction of the sheets.
19. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 11, wherein the marking device is an inkjet printing unit.
20. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein a transport module is further provided, which transport module is interposed between the sheet feeder module and the inspection module to form an additional machine assembly.

21. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein an expansion module is further provided, which expansion module is interposed between the inspection module and the marking module to form an additional machine assembly.

22. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein an inking unit module is provided which, in conjunction with ~~another~~ the marking module or the numbering module, forms a printing module.

23. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 22, wherein inking unit rollers of the inking unit module are mounted in side frame panels which ~~can be~~ are connected to ~~the~~ side frame panels of the ~~other~~ marking module or numbering modules.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 22, wherein a form cylinder is provided in the marking module or numbering module for cooperation with the inking unit module uses a cylinder of the other module as form cylinder and forms a printing unit with the latter to form the printing module.

26. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim ~~22~~25, wherein the inking unit module forms the printing module in conjunction with the numbering module and wherein the printing module uses an output transport cylinder of a ~~the~~ sheet feeder module or of

the inspection module adjacent to the printing~~upstream~~ of the numbering module as counter-pressure cylinder for the form cylinder.

27. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 22, wherein the inking unit module is removably installed on the ~~other~~ marking or numbering module.

28. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ a circumference of the input and output transport cylinders are of ~~the~~ a same size.

29. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim ~~28~~26, ~~wherein an inking unit module is provided which, in conjunction with another module, forms a printing module, wherein the inking unit module uses a cylinder of the other module as form cylinder and forms a printing unit with the latter, and wherein the form cylinder and the transport cylinders are~~ is of the a same size as the output transport cylinder acting as counter-pressure cylinder.

30. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ an output transport cylinders ~~of~~ at the sheet output interface of the inspection module and ~~the~~ an output transport cylinders ~~of~~ at the sheet ~~input-output~~ interface of the sheet feeder module are arranged at ~~the~~ a same height.

31. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the inspection module comprises two transport cylinders ~~which transport the sheets with respective different sides facing outwards, and comprises inspection devices arranged with the two~~

~~transport cylinders for inspecting the front and rear sides of the sheets, respectively~~  
transporting the sheets for inspection of front and rear sides of the sheets by inspection devices.

32. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 31, wherein ~~each of~~  
the inspection devices comprise an ~~respective~~ image sensor and a ~~respective~~ light source for  
inspection by reflection.

33. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 31, wherein the  
inspection devices comprise a UV light source and a light sensor for detecting fluorescence  
produced by the UV light source.

34. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 31, wherein the  
inspection devices comprise a magnetic field sensor.

35. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 31, wherein the  
inspection module comprises a further third transport cylinder ~~is provided with~~ and an further  
additional inspection device for inspecting the light-transmitting capacity of the sheets.

36. (currently amended) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 35, wherein the ~~further~~  
third transport cylinder has a transparent casing, wherein the additional inspection device  
comprises an image sensor and a light source for inspection by transmission, and wherein the  
~~transmitted~~ light source is arranged within the transparent casing of the third transport cylinder.



37. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein the numbering module comprises at least one numbering unit for printing a serial number on the sheets to be processed.

38. (previously presented) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 37, wherein the numbering module comprises two numbering units which are arranged on a counter-pressure cylinder with two printing segments.

39. (cancelled)

40. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 16, wherein the marking device is arranged to apply the marking as unusable selectively to individual copies or in relation to individual copies on a sheet.

41. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 16, wherein the marking device comprises a plurality of print heads which are distributed uniformly transversely to the sheet conveying direction.

42. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 16, wherein the marking device is an inkjet printing unit.

43. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 1, wherein a configuration of a sheet input interface of the numbering module is identical to a configuration of a sheet input

interface of the marking module so that any one of said numbering module and marking module can be coupled directly to a sheet output interface of the inspection module.

44. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 20, wherein an inking unit module is provided which, in conjunction with said transport module, forms a printing module.

45. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 44, wherein inking unit rollers of the inking unit module are mounted in side frame panels which are connected to side frame panels of the transport module.

46. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 44, wherein a form cylinder is provided in said transport module for cooperation with said inking unit module to form the printing module.

47. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 46, wherein the printing module uses an output transport cylinder of the sheet feeder module upstream of the transport module as counter-pressure cylinder for the form cylinder.

48. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 44, wherein the inking unit module is removably installed on the transport module.

49. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 47, wherein the form cylinder is of a same size as the output transport cylinder acting as counter-pressure cylinder.

50. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 20, wherein columns are provided for supporting the sheet feeder module, the transport module and the inspection module.

51. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 21, wherein columns are provided for supporting the sheet feeder module, the inspection module and the expansion module.

52. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 25, wherein the inking unit module forms the printing module in conjunction with the marking module and wherein the printing module uses an output transport cylinder of the inspection module upstream of the marking module as counter-pressure cylinder for the form cylinder.

53. (new) Sheet-processing machine according to claim 52, wherein the form cylinder is of a same size as the output transport cylinder acting as counter-pressure cylinder.

54. (new) Sheet-processing machine for processing sheets each comprising a plurality of copies, said sheet-processing machine comprising a plurality of modules through which said sheets are transported one after the other along a sheet conveying direction, said plurality of modules including a sheet feeder module for feeding the sheets and one or more downstream sheet-processing modules including at least an inspection module for monitoring the print quality of the sheets,

wherein the inspection module comprises two transport cylinders for transporting the sheets for inspection of front and rear sides of the sheets by inspection devices,

wherein the inspection module comprises a third transport cylinder having a transparent casing and an additional inspection device for inspecting light-transmitting capacity of the sheets, and

wherein the additional inspection device comprises an image sensor and a light source for inspection by transmission, the light source being arranged within the transparent casing of the third transport cylinder.